(c) and (d) This information can be furnished free of charge to all the subscribers along with regular bills.

Utilisation of amount of money orders

890. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to utilise the money at its disposal on any day between acceptance of money orders and its final payment;

(b) what is the estimated amount available with Government on a day on this account;

(c) what are the reasons for this; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to improve its services to earn more revenue if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Post is part & parcel of the Government of India and not a Public Sector/Departmental Undertaking for utilising the money in transit.

(b) As per accounts, the amount of total money orders handled during 1992-93 has been to the tune of Rs. 3000 crores. Day to Day Data is not maintained.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) Yes Sir. The Government has since approved a plan to instal 75 micro-earth stations (also called Very Small Aperture Terminals—VSATs) to transmit money order advices via Satellite Communications. The Department of Electronics is to provide all the technical support necessary for implementation of the project. The new technology is expected to reduce the cost of money order operations. The net work so developed will also help the Department to launch new value added services in the future (such as electronic money transfers etc.). Such services have substantial potential to generate additional revenue for the Government.

Telephone connections released in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

891. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephones sanctioned and cleared for release in Visakhapatnam town in Andhra Pradesh in year 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) what is the number of telephones yet to be installed;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a long time lag between sanction of phones and actual installation in Visakhapatnam;

(d) what are the steps Government propose to take streamline the telecom administration in Visakhapatnam; and

(e) what other measures are being taken to improve the response of Visakhapatnam telecom to the needs of phone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The details of the number of telephones sanctioned and released during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as under

	No. of Telephones	
Year	Sanctioned	released
91-92	2479	2479
92-93	4026	4023

(b) Waiting list of registrants is 14,321.